

Listing of All Claims Including Current Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A camera module for electronically recording images, the module comprising:
 - an image sensor having a plurality of image cells,
 - wherein each image cell is adapted to provide an electric image signal as a function of incident light, and
 - each image cell having a light-sensitive element for generating a light-dependent current, and
 - at least one MOS transistor having a gate terminal and a source-drain path, said MOS transistor being arranged in series with the light-sensitive element,
 - the gate of the transistor being at a fixed potential and the source-drain path being flowed through by the light-dependent current,
 - said module further comprising at least one light source arranged in a vicinity of the image sensor, said light source being adapted to illuminate the image cells without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded,
 - wherein the at least one light source is configured to illuminate the light-sensitive elements whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold value.
2. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, wherein the light source is adapted to provide a radiation in an invisible spectral region.
3. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, wherein the light source is adapted to provide an infrared radiation.
4. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, wherein the light source is adapted to provide a radiation in the region of a wavelength of about 880 nm.

5. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, wherein the light source is integrated into the camera module in a stationary fashion.
6. (Currently Amended) A camera module for electronically recording images, the module comprising:
 - an image sensor having a plurality of image cells,
 - wherein each image cell is adapted to provide an electric image signal as a function of incident light, and
 - each image cell having a light-sensitive element for generating a light-dependent current, and
 - at least one MOS transistor having a gate terminal and a source-drain path, said MOS transistor being arranged in series with the light-sensitive element,
 - the gate of the transistor being at a fixed potential and the source-drain path being flowed through by the light-dependent current,
 - said module further comprising at least one light source arranged in a vicinity of the image sensor, said light source being adapted to illuminate the image cells without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded,
 - wherein the light source is designed in the shape of a ring surrounding the image sensor.
7. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, further comprising a common printed circuit board common assembly carrier wherein the image sensor and the light source are arranged on.
8. (Original) The camera module of Claim 1, further comprising a timing element adapted to activate the light source for a predefined period of time as a function of the image signals.

9. (Original) The camera module Claim 1, further comprising a control device adapted to control the light source such that the image signals represent a mean light intensity which is higher than compared without the light source by a factor of approximately 5 to 200.

10. (Original) The camera module Claim 9, wherein the factor is between approximately 10 and 100.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically recording images by means of an image sensor which has a plurality of image cells, the method comprising the following steps:

- generating a light-dependent current by means of a light-sensitive element in each of the image cells,
- generating an electric image signal in each of the image cells by means of an MOS transistor having a gate terminal and a source-drain path, wherein the transistor is arranged in series with the light-sensitive element, and wherein the gate terminal is at a fixed potential and the source-drain path is flowed through by the light-dependent current, and
- reading out the electric image signals of all the image cells,
wherein the light-sensitive elements of the image cells are illuminated without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded by means of a light source arranged in the vicinity of the image cells,
wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold value.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the electric image signals are read out during first time intervals which are separated from one another, and wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated during second time intervals separated from one another, the first and second time intervals being different from one another.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically recording images by means of an image sensor which has a plurality of image cells, the method comprising the following steps:

- generating a light-dependent current by means of a light-sensitive element in each of the image cells,
- generating an electric image signal in each of the image cells by means of an MOS transistor having a gate terminal and a source-drain path, wherein the transistor is arranged in series with the light-sensitive element, and wherein the gate terminal is at a fixed potential and the source-drain path is flowed through by the light-dependent current, and
- reading out the electric image signals of all the image cells,
wherein the light-sensitive elements of the image cells are illuminated without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded by means of a light source arranged in the vicinity of the image cells,
wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated only when the brightness of image signals read-out during consecutive ~~third~~ time intervals ~~differ~~ differs by more than a ~~second~~ first threshold value.

15. (Currently Amended) A camera module for electronically recording images, comprising an image sensor with a plurality of image cells, with each image cell having a light-sensitive element for generating a light-dependent current as a function of incident light, said module further comprising at least one light source arranged in the region of the image sensor, the light source being configured to illuminate the image cells, wherein the light-sensitive elements are illuminated without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold value.

16. (Original) The camera module of Claim 15, wherein the light source is adapted to illuminate the image cells with a non-visible radiation having a wavelength of about 880 nm.

17. (Original) The camera module of Claim 15, wherein the light source is integrated into the camera module in a stationary fashion.

18. (Original) The camera module of Claim 15, further comprising a timing element adapted to activate the light source for fixed periods of time as a function of the image signals.

19. (Original) The camera module of Claim 15, further comprising a controller adapted to control illumination from the light source such that the image signals of the individual image cells represent a mean light intensity which is higher by a factor of approximately 5 to 200 than without illumination.